

I am appalled at Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is yet one more example of the dangers of media consolidation and of the power of big media to effect public thought. The exact opposite of free speech, the 'public green' has been subverted by a few individuals having a monopoly on the public airwaves.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Further, Sinclair is abusing the public interest by forcing its affiliates to broadcast what is clearly their political view. This has been happening more and more since the equal time doctrine was dropped and it is stiffling public views. It is time to return the airwaves to the public green and force this media conglomerates to do their civic duty. Thank you.